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Honors, Promotions and Transitions

Penny Castellano, MD, and Kevin A. Ault, MD, have been promoted to Professor, effective September 1, 2012. They were honored with other newly promoted faculty at a reception on August 30, 2012.

John White, MD, and Nicholas Fogelson, MD, were promoted to Assistant Professors in the Divisions of General Obstetrics and Gynecology at Grady and Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, respectively.

Stacey Schutte, PhD, and Juanjuan Wu, MD, PhD, were promoted to Instructors in the Division of Research.

Georgia Brogdon, DHSc, MBA, FACHE, CMPE, Administrator, received her Doctor of Health Science (DHSc) degree from Nova Southeastern.

Chairman Appointed - Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Dr. Thomas J. Lawley, Dean, Emory University School of Medicine, and Mr. John T. Fox, President and CEO, Emory Healthcare, announced the appointment of Ira R. Horowitz, MD, SM, as John D. Thompson Professor and Chairman of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics and Chief of the Gynecology and Obstetrics Service of Emory Healthcare on August 15, 2012. Dr. Horowitz has held the position of Interim Chair of the Department since the fall of 2010.

Dr. Horowitz completed medical school and residency training at Baylor College of Medicine before he trained and served on staff at The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine and its affiliated hospitals. He also earned his Masters of Science Health Care Management from Harvard School of Public Health. He joined the faculty at Emory in 1992 and was appointed as Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics in 1999 and also received the Willaford Ransom Leach Professorship in Gynecology and Obstetrics. Dr. Horowitz holds a joint appointment in the Winship Cancer Institute, and has served as Associate Director, The Emory Clinic since 2005. He is Chief Medical Officer of Emory University Hospital and Medical Director, Office of Risk and Insurance Services, Emory Healthcare.

Dr. Horowitz serves on numerous national and international committees and is a highly sought after speaker on topics related to Gynecology and Obstetrics issues. His bibliography is extensive to include articles, abstracts and chapters.

Dr. Horowitz said, “During the past 22 months we have been able to improve the department's fiscal stability. Many of our faculty have landed research grants and we have begun expanding our research portfolio. The experience of our residents has also improved during this time. It is only as a team that we have accomplished the above. I look forward to working with all of you to bring our department to the next level during the coming years.”

Link to the announcement

46th Annual Clinical Topics in Gynecology and Obstetrics and John D. Thompson Resident Research Day
University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. For the past several years she has worked toward her degree requirements through a combination of distance learning and on-site in Fort Lauderdale. Congratulations to the newest doctorate recipient in our department.

Jessi ca Arluck, MD, assistant professor, division of general ob/gyn, and associate residency program director, and Kendra Moore, MBA, associate director of finance, have completed the 2012 Woodruff Leadership Academy program. At the end of May they presented and defended their project findings to a group of faculty, mentors, administrators, and trustees. Dr. Arluck and members of "Team Incisive" presented "The seven-day-a-week hospital." Ms. Moore and her group presented "The Center for Diagnostic Medicine at Emory: a destination to improve lives one diagnosis at a time." Established in 2003, the Woodruff Leadership Academy program develops managerial and technical expertise for researchers, physicians, educators, and administrators.

Allison Lange, MD, PGY3, and Navya Nair, MD, PGY2, have both had Case Reports accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (SAAOG) in West Virginia, January 2013. Dr. Lange's case report is titled, "Uterine vessel rupture leading to life-threatening occult hemorrhage can occur in a vaginal delivery in which there is minimal maternal effort." Dr. Nair's case report is titled, "Intermittent airway obstruction in an obstetrical patient requiring emergency...

The 46th Annual Clinical Topics in Gynecology and Obstetrics and John D. Thompson Resident Research Day program was held April 25 and May 16, 2012.

The graduating class of residents and fellows presented their findings of investigations initiated earlier in their training on Wednesday, April 25, 2012. John A. Rock, MD, Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Founding Dean, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Florida International University, and Jerome Yankowitz, MD, James M. Ingram Professor and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of South Florida College of Medicine, were guest faculty members and served as judges.

Dr. Rock, former chair, Emory University Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, presented the 23rd John D. Thompson Lecture, "Neighborhood HELP Program: A Community Based Educational Program."

Dr. Yankowitz presented the 29th Annual W. Newton Long Lecture, "Management of Maternal Genetic Conditions During Pregnancy."

Second year residents and first year fellows presented their proposals for feedback and evaluation on May 16. Resident and fellows' projects are recognized with small grants earmarked to support their studies.

Link to the program with project synopses.
Nine residents completed the Gynecology and Obstetrics Residency Training program June 30, 2012.

Erin Berry-Bibee, MD - Emory Family Planning Fellowship
Francoise Boubert, MD - Southern Connecticut Women's Healthcare Associates, Milford, CT.
Charlene Emmanuel, MD - Women's Specialists of Fayette - Fayetteville, GA
Tiffany General, MD, and Tia Guster, MD - OB/GYN of Dothan - Dothan, Alabama
Holly Shen, MD - Premier OB/GYN of Manatee, Bradenton, FL
Sonny Seo, MD - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center - Academic Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA
Jameela Harper, MD - Lakeside OB/GYN - Gainesville, GA
Siri Raju, MD - Lifecycle OB/GYN - Eastpoint, GA

Five physicians completed fellowship training:
Fyama Wenner, MD, completed the maternal-fetal medicine fellowship and joined the Kaiser Permanente group in Atlanta.
Vitaly Kushnir, MD, completed the reproductive endocrinology and infertility fellowship. He has joined the Center for Human Reproduction in New York City.
Nicholas Fogelson, MD, completed the Emory pelvic surgery fellowship and joined the Emory gynecology and obstetrics department as an assistant professor in the division of female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery.
Docile Saguan, MD, completed the Emory pelvic reconstructive surgery fellowship in August.
Tara Cleary, MD, MPH,

Awards - RRD 2012

Internal research grant awards for projects and proposals were presented at the department's annual Resident and Fellow Research Day and Graduation Banquet on Saturday, June 2, 2012. Grants may be used by the recipients for the research investigation or travel and presentation of findings. The department wishes to thank the Georgia Obstetrical and Gynecological Society and the Emory-Grady Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians for support of these awards.

Outstanding Resident Research Proposals

Recipients’ proposals were chosen for awards based on innovation, significance, feasibility, and impact.

Kathleen Sullivan, MD, PGY2 “Evaluation of the Zero Tolerance Policy at Emory University Hospital Midtown: Elective Delivery at Less Than 39 Weeks Gestation and Neonatal and Maternal Outcomes”
Mentor: Dr. Penny Castellano

Rachel Paccone, MD, PGY2 “Adherence to Guidelines for Reproductive Health Services in Privately Insured Young Women in the United States”
Mentors: Drs. Mark Hoover and Lisa Haddad

Katherine Shields, MD, PGY2 “Cervical Cancer Screening Application: Validity and Acceptability Among Providers”
Mentor: Dr. Lisa Flowers

Excellence in Clinical Investigation

Erin Berry-Bibee, MD, PGY4 “Characteristics of Women Who Fail to Return for Delayed IUD Insertion for Post-Abortion Contraception”
Mentors: Drs. Carrie Cwiak, Melissa Kottke, and Lisa Haddad

Holly Shen, MD, PGY4 “Misoprostol for IUD Insertion in Nulliparous Women: Patient Perceived Pain and Overall Satisfaction at 1 Week”
Mentors: Dr. Eva Lathrop, Peggy Goedken, MPH, and Dr. Lisa Haddad

Excellence in Research Inquiry

Charlene Emmanuel, MD, PGY4 “Gynecologists’ Attitudes Regarding Group B Streptococcus Vaccination: A Survey of the Georgia Obstetrical and Gynecological Society”
Mentor, Dr. Kevin Ault

Outstanding Research Proposal by a Fellow

Jennifer Kawwass, MD First Year Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Fellow “Tubal Factor and Preterm Delivery After In Vitro Fertilization.”
Mentors: Drs. Donna Session, Dmitry Kissin, and Denise Jamieson

Award sponsored by the Georgia Obstetrical and Gynecological Society

Excellence in Research by a Fellow

Vitaly Kushnir, MD Third Year Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Fellow “Mitochondrial Role in Reproductive Aging.”
Mentors: Drs. William Lewis and Robert N.
completed the family planning fellowship and received her MPH degree from Emory Rollins School of Public Health. She is joining the faculty at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill as a Research Assistant Professor and will be working at the CDC as a Guest Researcher. She will continue as an adjunct faculty member in the department.

Caleb Kallen, MD, PhD, has joined the faculty of Thomas Jefferson University, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. Dr. Kallen joined the Emory gynecology and obstetrics department in 2005 as an assistant professor in the division of research. We wish him all the best in his new position.

Agena Davenport-Nicholson, MD, joined the General Ob Gyn Division in July. Her patient office is at Emory University Hospital Midtown. Dr. Davenport is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine in Cincinnati, Ohio, and completed her residency in OB/GYN there, also.

Taniqua Miller, MD, will join the General Ob Gyn faculty in October. Dr. Miller completed residency in OB/GYN at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Kalinda Dennis Woods, MD, joined the General Ob Gyn Division in August. Her patient office is at Emory University Hospital Midtown. Dr. Woods completed residency in OB/GYN at the University of Maryland Medical Systems in Baltimore, Maryland. She was most recently in practice with the North Shore Physicians Group in Danvers, Massachusetts, and a member of the adjunct clinical faculty at Brigham and Women's/ Massachusetts General Hospital.

Demetrius Woods, MD, MPH, joined the General Ob Gyn Division in July. His patient office is at Emory University Hospital Midtown. Dr. Woods is a graduate of Emory University School of Medicine and his MPH degree is from Rollins School of Public Health. He completed residency training in OB/GYN at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in New York, NY.

Residents and Fellows 2012

July 1, 2012, the following physicians began their fellowships in the department of gynecology and obstetrics:

Family Planning

Erin Berry-Bibee, MD, Emory resident 2012

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Iris Krishna, MD, Emory resident 2010

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Carrie Bedient, MD. Dr. Bedient completed her OB/GYN residency at Case Western University in 2012.

Lisa Fusco, MD, and Michelle Glasgow, MD, joined the division of gynecologic oncology as pelvic reconstructive surgery fellows. Dr. Glasgow completed her residency in OB/GYN at Yale University and Dr. Fusco took her residency at Danbury Medical Center in Danbury Connecticut.

Holly Langmuir, MD, MS, MPH, joined the division of female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery as a fellow. Dr. Langmuir completed OB/GYN residency

Obstetric Provider Shortage and Maldistribution in Georgia

In 2010, Adrienne DelMarais Zertuche, MD, MPH, PGY1, founded the Georgia Maternal and Infant Health Research Group (GMIHRG) during the course of earning her masters in public health. The GMIHRG's purpose is to:

- Investigate the hypothesized shortage and maldistribution of Georgia's obstetric providers
- Inform lawmakers, community leaders, and healthcare professionals about critical maternal and child health issues in Georgia

In 2011, GMIHRG members (thirteen students from Emory's Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health) administered a piloted phone survey to all 63 birthing facilities outside metropolitan Atlanta and interviewed several OB/GYN physicians that recently transitioned to gynecologic care only or left the state to practice elsewhere.

GMIHRG discovered that 36% of the 82 Georgia primary care service areas (PCSAs) outside Atlanta have no delivering obstetricians, and 16% have a deficit. That is, 52% of PCSAs outside Atlanta have an overburdening or complete absence of obstetric providers. If Georgia fails to recruit additional providers over the next ten years, the
ABOG Exams

From the Class of 2010: Kenan Omurtag, MD, and Victor Feldbaum, MD, have both passed their early ABOG board exams and are now Diplomates of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Tia Guster, MD, resident 2012 received notification that she passed her board exam. Congratulations!

Global Health Residency Scholars Program

Dean Thomas Lawley announced that Emory University School of Medicine has established the Global Health Residency Scholars Program (GHRSP), with funding from the medical school’s new Global Health Strategic Initiative.

“GHRSP’s goal is to build a global platform for Emory and develop collaborations among departments that are involved at AAU,” says Carlos del Rio, who co-directs the program with Henry Blumberg. The one-year curriculum for residents includes monthly didactic sessions, lectures, and seminars in Atlanta, as well as a journal club.

Dr. Alisa Kahikis and Dr. Abdulrahman Sinno, fourth year residents in gynecology and obstetrics, were selected to participate in the program along with residents from surgery, radiology, pediatrics, dermatology, anesthesiology, pathology, family and preventive medicine, and rehabilitation medicine. In the gynecology and obstetrics department, during their PGY4 elective rotation, residents experience health care in a resource-constrained setting through one-month rotations in Ethiopia.

Dr. Ira Horowitz, professor and chairman, is mentor to Dr. Sinno and Dr. Jennifer Goedken, assistant professor, is mentoring Dr. Kahikis during their international electives at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.

The Department has also established a fund to support international Global Health Rotations for each resident who wishes to participate in an international elective. More information and directions to make a contribution to the global health rotation fund are included at this link.

Emory's MilliPub Club

Jessica Spencer, MD, MSc, Assistant Professor, was recently welcomed as a member of Emory University's MilliPub Club. As a co-author of the article, “Large-scale identification, mapping, and genotyping of single-nucleotide polymorphisms in the human genome,” Dr. Spencer was recognized for scholarly achievement. Drarryl Barr, Associate Director, Research Programs and Resources, Emory University School of Medicine, Office of Research and Strategic Initiatives, said that “This paper clearly has made a significant scientific impact on the genomics field.” The MilliPub Club honors and recognizes current Emory faculty who have published one or more individual papers throughout their careers that have each garnered more than 1000 citations. Such a paper is commonly considered a “citation classic” and represents high impact scholarship.

Saturday, October 13, 2012

It's that time again ... time to join the HOT FLASHES in the upcoming Winship Win the Fight 5K on Saturday October 13th (it's never too early to start)!

Link here to participate and/or sign up to donate

Link to flyer


Recent Publications
Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics


Please link here for the complete list of recent, peer-reviewed publications.

Meconium Cup 2012 - Champs!

Dr. Ira Horowitz, professor and chairman, and Dr. Carla Roberts, associate professor and residency program director, were happy to report that the Gyn Ob Department won the 2012 Meconium Cup softball game against the Department of Pediatrics and brought home the trophy!